IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method of redirecting information in a segmented virtual machine (VM) including a shell VM and a core VM, the method comprising:

        establishing a first connection between an external application and the shell VM to transfer information between the external application and the core VM via the shell VM and a communication link between the shell VM and the core VM;

        establishing a second connection between the shell VM and the core VM such that the information between the external application and the core VM is transferred via the shell VM and the second connection instead of the communication link; and

        ───── sending information to a shell VM; and

        stitching the first connection and the second connection to ~~redirecting~~ redirect the information between the external application and the core VM, including by bypassing ~~to bypass~~ the shell VM to reduce load on the shell VM, and transferring the data via a portion of the first connection and a portion of the second connection; wherein:

        the shell VM and the core VM each perform some but not all functions of the segmented VM.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Cancelled)

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein redirecting includes receiving the information at a switch.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is redirected to [[a]] the core VM.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is redirected to [[an]] the external application.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is included in a TCP packet or TCP connection.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a packet received by [[a]] the core VM appears to have includes a translated address indicating that the packet has been sent by the shell VM.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a packet received by [[an]] the external application appears to have includes a translated address indicating that the packet has been sent by the shell VM.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein redirecting includes translating an address within a packet.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including determining that the information should be redirected.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is redirected once a connection associated with the information lasts longer than a certain period of time.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is redirected once a connection associated with the information sends more than a certain number of packets.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information is redirected once the shell VM device carries a certain load.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

   receiving a message indicating that the information sending has been completed; and

   sending a control message.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

   receiving a message indicating that the information sending has been completed; and

   forwarding the message.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

   receiving a message indicating that the information sending has been completed;

   translating the message; and

   sending the translated message.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a device that includes a switch and a core VM redirects the information.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a device that includes a switch and the shell VM redirects the information.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a device that includes the shell VM, [[a]] the core VM, and a switch redirects the information.

25.   (Currently Amended) ~~A method of evaluating whether to redirect information comprising:~~ The method of claim 1, wherein redirecting the information comprises:

   sending a discovery packet;

   receiving a reply to the discovery packet; and

determining whether a switch is capable of stitching based on the reply <u>by</u> <u>examining the reply to determine whether the reply includes an indication of whether the switch</u> <u>has stitching capability.</u>

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, further including determining the number of ingress and egress points on a device.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of responding to a discovery packet~~ <u>The method of claim</u> <u>1, further</u> comprising:

      receiving [[the]] <u>a</u> discovery packet at a switch; and

      sending a response indicating a capability of the switch.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further including determining whether the switch is one hop away from [[the]] <u>a</u> device that sent the discovery packet.

29. (Currently Amended) A system for redirecting information in a segmented VM <u>including</u> <u>a shell VM and a core VM,</u> comprising:

      <u>a device on which the shell VM operates;</u>

      ~~a device configured to send information to a shell VM;~~ and

      a switch configured to:

          <u>establish a first connection between an external application and the shell</u> <u>VM to transfer information between the external application and the core VM via</u> <u>the shell VM and a communication link between the shell VM and the core VM;</u>

          <u>establish a second connection between the shell VM and the core VM such</u> <u>that the information between the external application and the core VM is</u> <u>transferred via the shell VM and the second connection instead of the</u> <u>communication link; and</u>

          <u>stitch the first connection and the second connection to</u> redirect the information <u>between the external application and the core VM, including by bypassing</u> ~~to~~

~~bypass~~ the shell VM <u>to reduce load on the shell VM, and transferring the data via a</u> <u>portion of the first connection and a portion of the second connection; wherein:</u>

<u>the shell VM and the core VM each perform some but not all functions of the</u> <u>segmented VM.</u>

30.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[26]] <u>29,</u> ~~wherein the~~ <u>further comprising a</u> <u>second</u> device <u>that</u> includes an external application.

31.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[26]] <u>29,</u> wherein the device includes a core VM.

32.   (Currently Amended) ~~A system for evaluating whether to redirect information,~~ ~~comprising~~ <u>The system of claim 29, wherein:</u>

    a shell VM configured to:

        send a discovery packet;

        receive a reply to the discovery packet; and

        determine whether a switch is capable of stitching based on the reply<u> by</u> <u>examining the reply to determine whether the reply includes an indication of whether the</u> <u>switch has stitching capability;</u> and

        <u>the system further comprises</u> a switch configured to send a reply to the discovery packet.

33.   (Currently Amended) ~~A system for responding to a discovery packet, comprising~~ <u>The</u> <u>system of claim 29, wherein:</u>

    a shell VM configured to send [[the]] <u>a</u> discovery packet; and

    <u>the system further comprises</u> a switch configured to:

        receive the discovery packet; and

        respond with a capability of the switch.